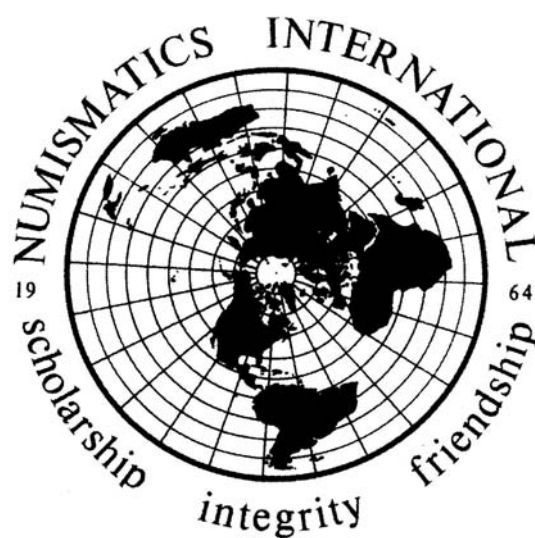


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Merry Christmas from NI _____

"Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht"

by Mohr and Gruber

"Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht". These were the first words of a poem written on a snowy, wintery eve, in 1818, by a local priest in Oberndorf, Austria.

Unknown to the priest and the composer, who set the words to music, these were to become some of the most loved and most sung of Christmas songs and words, our own Silent Night, Holy Night.

The story behind the writing of this famous Christmas song has been told and retold for over 150 years. And still, the story is as popular as the song.

Again, this story, like so many other stories, was once told through numismatics, through the issuance of a set of three Austrian notgeld notes of 1920, in denominations of 10, 20 and 50 Heller.

The three notes shown below in Figures 1, 2 and 3, relate in pictures and words, the story of the two men who were responsible for the birth of this beautiful song. It tells how the song came to be and where and why it was written.



Fig. 1
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The notes, in light green, tan and black, state they are credit notes of the Market Community of Oberndorf, Austria, and that they were issued in commemoration of the writing of Silent Night, Holy Night, 24 December 1818, by Father Joseph Mohr and music teacher Franz Gruber in the Oberndorf parish Catholic church.

The obverse of each note depicts Father Mohr to the left, Mr. Gruber to the right, and the Silent Night, Holy Night church in the center.

These notes, more commonly known as the "Silent Night" notes, are three of the most sought after pieces by emergency money collectors. Though not designed for general circulation, but for collectors, these notes have found their way into many collections throughout the world. Their circulation has been great to say the least.

As the story goes, the priest of Oberndorf's only Catholic church found himself in quite a dilemma just before Christmas, 1818. He had planned a Christmas program for the village children, and in preparing for the music, found that the church organ's felts had been eaten by mice. The repairman, who was late in coming, is felt to be the person who first saw the written words and who told of their origin throughout his travels to other parts of Austria and Germany.

However, Mather Mohr's problem was finally solved by himself, and the local music teacher, Franz Gruber.

While awaiting the repairman, Father Mohr wrote the poem Silent Night, Holy Night, and planned to have the children sing it as a choir. While on his way home, Mr. Gruber saw the light from the parish study and stopped in to see what was going on in the church two nights before Christmas. Upon finding the good Father at a loss, Gruber offered to assist by supplying the music for the poem the following eve, Christmas Eve, 1818.

Thus, Silent Night, Holy Night was born. Through the words of a village priest and the music of a school teacher-musician. And Herman, the village cobbler, strummed his guitar the following eve as the children sang "Silent Night, Holy Night" for the first time.



Fig. 2

It is interesting to understand how the fame of this famous poem and song spread. As stated, it was and is felt that the repairman, after he had come and gone, spread the news. He certainly saw it in print on the organ. It is felt he took the words and music back to his home in Sillerthal in the Tyrolian area, where the Strasser Sisters added it to their repertoire of Tyrolian songs. Also, for years Michael Hayden, younger brother of Joseph Hayden, received credit as author of the song.

Today, Oberndorf is a quiet little village, 15 miles north of Salzburg on the Salzach River, just below the junction of this river and the Inn River. Across the Inn is the city of Laufen, Germany. And up the river a short distance, Braunau, Austria, the birthplace of another famous Austrian, Adolf Hitler.

The original Silent Night Church is long since gone. In its place, built in 1937, is the Silent Night Chapel, and through its stained glass windows and other artifacts, the story related here is told again and again. Oberndorf is presently served by a new and beautiful Catholic church.

And what of Father Mohr and Franz Gruber. Father Mohr was born 11 December 1792 and died 5 December 1848. He, like Gruber, died penniless and without knowledge of the fame of their song. Gruber, a school teacher and musician, was born 25 November 1787 and died in 1863 in Hallein.

(Editor's Note: Many thanks are given to the author Paul Gallice, whose little red book, The True Story of Silent Night, has best told this beautiful story. This book also contains the original words and music of Silent Night, Holy Night. For a detailed in depth study of this bit of spiritual and musical history, I strongly urge the reading of this fine little book.)



Fig. 3

THE SCHINDERLINGWIRTSCHAFT:

Monetary Problems in Medieval Austria 1457-1460

by Gordon Andreas Singer, FRNS

In the middle of the fifteenth century Austria underwent a serious but short-lived economic crisis. This was brought about by the unsettled political conditions of the years 1457 to 1463, and was marked by the rapid deterioration of the Wiener Pfennige, the standard Austrian silver coinage. The neighboring areas which were dependent to varying degrees on Austrian currency also suffered through the crisis. Although the quality of the coinage was declining before the death in November, 1457 of Ladislav Posthumous, the principal Habsburg ruler, this unexpected event was the beginning of the troubles.

After the death of Ladislav, struggles broke out in the Habsburg domains. Friedrich V, who had become in turn a duke (1424), German King (1440), and Holy Roman Emperor (as Friedrich III, 1452-1493), was the senior member of the family. He had been forced to release Ladislav from his guardianship in 1452, and was in the process of regaining his influence when the young king died in Prague. Civil war soon erupted, with Friedrich arrayed against the adventurous entourage of Ladislav and his own brother, Albrecht VI of Austria. Neither of the major Habsburg parties was able to win a decisive victory, which enabled the kingdoms of Bohemia and Hungary, previously united under the person of Ladislav, to elect their own national kings. Friedrich was able to hold his own against a rebellious nobility, but an invasion by the Bohemians in 1458 led him to come to terms with his brother. Friedrich was to hold Lower Austria (which included Vienna), while Upper Austria was given to Albrecht. A few years later Albrecht received Lower Austria in return for an annual rent, but following his death in 1463, everything reverted to Friedrich.

It was during the first few years of this period of political strife that the economic and monetary disorders took place. When the silver resources of Bohemia and Hungary were lost to the Habsburgs, the coinage was faced with the pressures of limited supply and increased demand. The unsettled political situation then led to abuses of the once sound currency. Friedrich III allowed the coinage to be debased in order to increase its supply, as well as his own revenues. He also allowed his military commanders to strike their own coins for paying their troops, which produced some very poor issues, indeed. At the same time Albrecht opened mints in his towns of Enns, Freistadt, and Linz, which produced debased pfennigs and kreuzers. Friedrich's coins came mainly from his Styrian mint at Graz. All this minting activity led to a fall in the quality of the coinage which had serious repercussions. The resulting inflation, coupled with a series of poor harvests, made life miserable for many Austrian subjects.

With the silver content of the coinage at a very low level, an anonymous Viennese chronicler observed:



Fig. 1
Schinderling of Friedrich III,
dated (14)58, Graz Mint.



Fig. 2
Schwarzpennig, or schinderling,
of Albrecht VI, Freistadt Mint.



Fig. 3
Kreuzer (4 pfennigs) of
Albrecht VI, Enns Mint



Fig. 4
Schinderling of Albrecht VI,
Enns Mint

"They struck kreuzers and pfennigs in which there was no silver, only copper, and they became rich through this. These pfennigs were called 'hebrenko' and after that 'schinderling', the names they kept until our own time."¹

At the other end of the country, a chronicler of Salzburg reported that:

"In the year of our Lord 1457, and the three following years, the Emperor Friedrich III caused vile and despicable money to be coined, which the people called 'schinderling'.²

Literally schinderling meant little scale or flake. The Austrian pfennigs and halblings (half-pfennigs) were generally uniface and somewhat irregular in shape, but they had never been made of such debased silver, nor had they ever been made so carelessly. The new coins were quite irregularly shaped and very thin, like flakes or scales, thus the name schinderling provided an accurate description.

The name given to the coins has been used to describe the whole period, the Schinderlingwirtschaft, or Schinderling Economy. Once the schinderlings had appeared, it did not take long for inflation to set in, and there was a general clamor and hoarding of old pfennigs or foreign coins of recognized quality. Eventually a person had to pay ten or twelve schinderlings to get an old pfennig. Another chronicler recorded that:

"Whoever had a Bohemian groschen or an old pfennig could buy anything that he needed; so one could get a good meal or a pair of shoes for a Bohemian groschen."³

Nothing is said about the cost of these things in schinderlings.

Since the schinderlings were being exchanged for foreign coinage whenever it was possible, the troubles spread outside the borders of Austria, mainly to Bohemia. As the preceeding chronicle indicates, the Bohemian Prager Groschens were a popular substitute for the

debased pfennigs; however, these were in short supply in their home country, and Bohemia was soon overrun by schinderlings, a good example of bad money driving out good (the so-called Gresham's Law). At the same time schinderlings struck in Bavaria-Landschut by Ludwig IX the Rich (1450-79) were also invading the kingdom. The Bohemian princes and people alike condemned the schinderlinky and King George Poděbrady (1458-71) prohibited their circulation in 1460, then embarked on a reform of his own minor coinage.

The Bavarian chronicler Aventin reported that in order to persuade Ludwig IX to cease striking debased coins, the Bohemians "allowed him to watch while they made a fire and threw all the schinderlings into it".⁴ Such a demonstration was not necessary for the Austrians, since popular outcry led to a restoration of good pfennigs in 1460. Albrecht VI struck no more kreuzers or schinderlings, but he did continue to issue better quality weisspfennigs at Enns.⁵ At the same time Friedrich III improved the quality of his own coinage.

Friedrich relied upon the Wiener Hausgenossen, a long-established corporation which specialized in procuring metal and minting coins, to restore the coinage. The Wiener Hausgenossen had its own mint-master, Nikolas Teschler, and his initials appeared on some of the new issues. Five separate types were issued in 1460 by the Wiener Hausgenossen. The first restored a popular early type of Albrecht V (1404-39) which had been struck in great numbers in the 1420's. This procedure successfully led the people to identify the new coin with the old pfennigs which they had so recently been seeking. Of the next three types, all of them with Friedrich's initials, two feature the arms of Austria and the other the city arms of Vienna; two of them are also dated (14)60, and the initials TW, for Teschler Wien, appears twice, too. The final, most common type is purely Viennese, bearing the city arms and the initials WHT, for Wiener Hausgenossen Teschler.



Fig. 5
Pfennig of Friedrich
III, imitating an
earlier issue of
Albrecht V.



Fig. 6
Pfennig of Friedrich
III, with initials
TW at bottom.



Fig. 7
Pfennig of Friedrich
dated (14)60, with
initials TW.



Fig. 8
Pfennig of Friedrich III,
with arms of Vienna, dated (14)60.



Fig. 9
Vienna pfennig, WHT--Wiener
Hausgenossen Teschler.

(Note: All coins are uniface except Fig. 3.)

Nevertheless, the restoration of the coinage did nothing to improve the political climate. Friedrich remained as unpopular as ever, and Albrecht declared war on him in June 1461. In November 1462 the emperor was besieged in the castle of Vienna by the citizens and his brother. George Podebrady was called in to work out a compromise, and Friedrich agreed to lease all of his possessions to Albrecht for eight years. He then rode out of Vienna to the jeers of the populace; one might imagine that had there been any schinderlings left in Viennese purses, they would have been thrown at him, although Albrecht was no less a culprit in creating the Schinderling Economy.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 - Friedrich Freiherr von Schrötter, Wörterbuch der Münzkunde (Berlin und Leipzig: 1930), s.v. Schinderling. I have been unable to trace the etymology of hebrekenko, which may be of Czech origin.
- 2 - Wiener Numismatische Zeitschrift (1880), p. 245.
- 3 - Ibid, p. 249.
- 4 - Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm, Deutsches Wörterbuch (Leipzig: 1899), XI, col. 199, s.v. Schinderling.
- 5 - Weisspfennige (white pfennigs) had a higher silver content than the schinderlings and Schwarzpennige (black pfennigs); the difference was often observable by comparing the colors of the two coins, hence their names.
- 6 - The illustrations are from Alfred Szego, The Coinage of Medieval Austria (Oakdale, N.Y.: 1970), courtesy of the author.

I MARRIED A NUMISMATIST -- OR ADVICE TO JUNE BRIDES, BRIDES OF ALL MONTHS, AND ALL FORMER BRIDES

Anonymous

"Dear, we are invited to the Smith's tomorrow night." "Woman, don't you know that is my coin club night? I've gone to the coin club meetings every first and third Thursday night for six years and you haven't learned yet."

"John, when are you going to have this table cleared? I'm sick and tired of eating in the kitchen with coins spread all over the table, paper bills on top of the cabinets and magazines and coin papers all over. Is this the way I'm to show the neighbors I maintain a home?" "Yes, dear. Tomorrow, perhaps. If Bill comes over and does some trading tonight and when I swap these foreign colonials with Jim. I need these books and magazines everyday; how can you have a collection without them?" BANG! (Editor's note: Wonder who shot whom.)

"And this is the coin room. Some folks have dens or a sewing room, but we have a coin room. We have a coin room upstairs, in the basement, and often, all over the house". "Dear, when are you going to sell your coins and build us a house big enough for your hobby?" He, on the phone, "Yeh, Sam, that's right. I bought that Westphalian Billion Mark piece in 1950 for \$5.00 and it's going now for \$300.00."

"Oh, mother. It was the most terrible argument you ever heard. And our first one, too. And right there on the honeymoon. John handed

(Continued on page 356)

The Cowrie Coinage of Uganda

by Jayant J. Ruparel, Nairobi, Kenya

Uganda forms one of the constituent countries of East Africa. The word Uganda is derived from Buganda which was a Negro Kingdom, and now forms one of its four provinces. The Kingdom of Buganda was well established but it did not have any coinage. With the increase in slave trade the Arab Traders started penetrating inwards and connections were increased with the Chiefs and Kings of the Negro Kingdoms. In the late 18th century and beginning of the 19th century trade goods in the shape of dark blue cloth, copper wire and cowrie shells were introduced in Buganda.

After Seyyid Said's transfer of his capital to Zanzibar in 1840, Arab Traders pushed very much inland and the first pure Arab Trader reached the Buganda capital in 1848.

After Speke and Grant, other explorers of various nationalities entered Uganda and all speak of carrying cowrie shells.

In 1890, Uganda came under the rule of Britain according to the Anglo German agreement of 1st July, 1890. However, the country was under the management of the Imperial British East Africa Co., a company which had issued their own rupee (Yeoman No. 5, Mombasa) and were also using the Indian Rupee. At this time the value of cowrie was good...200 cowries to 1 Indian Rupee.

In 1894 Uganda was declared a British Protectorate.

In 1895 the first postage stamps of Uganda were issued, and were expressed in cowries. Further stamps were issued in 1895 and 1896 with cowrie denominations.

The construction of the Uganda railway facilitated the introduction of the coin in rupee and pice ($1/4$ anna). This was the coinage of India and was dominant in Zanzibar and Mombasa at the time.

The East Africa (Currency) order in Council, 1898, established the silver rupee of British India as the legal tender in the East Africa Protectorate (now Kenya). However, this order was not officially extended to Uganda. In 1896, however, the postage stamps were issued with the Anna and Rupee denominations. In the same year the Government imported 28,000 rupees and the cowries were accepted at 200 to the rupee. However, the coin, for the most part, was only distributed by the Government as wages to troops and employees who expended it in purchases from Arab and Indian Traders in the vicinity of Government Stations and these traders forthwith returned the coin to the Government in exchange for cheques on Mombasa. When the Sudanese

NICKNAMES FOR COINS

by O. D. Cresswell, 54 Rosscroole Park, Belfast 14, Northern Ireland

Familiar objects soon take upon themselves a nickname, either jovial or as some teachers could testify, the reverse. It is not surprising therefore that coins should have done the same. What does cause surprise, quite illogically of course, is that our ancestors should also have had their nicknames for money. Somehow or other we never visualise our ancestors as having a sense of humour. This short paper is an attempt first of all to list as many nicknames as I could cull and secondly to invite as many members as possible to add nicknames from their own part of the world. Maybe we could end up with a dictionary of numismatic nicknames. I would suggest that any any additions or amendments should, if at all possible, quote the earliest date the nickname is known to have been in use. For this I found the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary invaluable.

Let us start off with the general nicknames for money and I'm sure I have only scraped the surface.

TIN. This nickname dates from 1836 rather surprisingly as tin coins ceased to be used in Britain over a century earlier. Maybe it was in use verbally in the meantime but escaped being recorded on paper.

THE READY. This is still in use and dates back to Middle English. I would hazard a guess that it did not originate as a nickname but as a description of coined money, in that it could be used immediately, and not like cheques, etc., which required verification.

GELD, GELT, GILT and GILL. These are all obviously connected with the German word for gold and have been spread across Europe by Jewish bankers and money changers. I have never heard the first three in use but GILL I have heard often.

THE NECESSARY, THE NEEDFUL, etc. There is little to say on these and similar names. I must admit some surprise on finding out that they date from 1772 and 1774 respectively as I had thought that my own generation of "wits" had invented them. Maybe they have not been in continuous use but have been reinvented every generation or so.

Those are all the general nicknames I can bring to mind but I am sure there are many more to be gathered in around the world.

Turning now to the nicknames of British coins I found a rich harvest from one end of the scale of value to the other. Let us start off from the top.

MARIGOLD. This, believe it or not, is the nickname for 1,000,000 pounds and who would have thought that there was the slightest necessity for a nickname for that kind of money. And who, we may ask, would ever be in the position to remark jovially that they were down to their last Marigold?

COW or PLUM. These are nicknames for 100,000 pounds. We could speculate on the German Vieh for cow and on to the English word Fee but

for what service would that sum of money be the fee? PLUM, on the other hand, has a more lengthy pedigree, dating from 1689. I wonder if it is even earlier deriving from the Little Jack Horner of the nursery rhyme. He is supposed to have been a courtier of the time of Henry VIII who extracted some fine plums from the dissolution of the monasteries. Credence is lent to the thought by the fact that the word PLUM referring to a person worth 100,000 pounds is much younger, dating from 1774. You would reasonably expect the nickname to apply to the person before it was applied to the sum involved.

A MONKEY, as a betting term for 500 pounds dates from 1832 and PONY, used in the same context for 25 pounds is thirty five years older. I do not propose to spend any space on these as they are gambler's slang and must never have been in common use.

FINNUP for 5 pounds conjures up the German Funf for five and the ubiquitous Jewish merchants and traders of Western Europe. It is hardly surprising that DOUBLE FINNUP should refer to 10 pounds. Another term for 5 pounds is an ABRAHAM NEWLAND, hence an ABRAHAM. Mr. Newland is said to have been a cashier, where or when I do not know. The phrase SHAM ABRAHAM for forging bank notes had a wide circulation in Victorian England and is interesting as an example of rhyming slang, a process from which a good many nicknames have been derived.

Coming down to the 1 pound, the sovereign or the Guinea there is a wealth of nicknames. Some like GLISTENER and GOLDFINCH refer to the metal, the latter being current in 1602, one of the earliest nicknames I have come across. Others seem to defy logical explanation. What can one make of STRANGER, THICK'UN, MOUSETRAP or NEWHAT? REMEDY, on the other hand, must derive in some way from the term Remedy used for the small margin of error in weight or fineness allowable in minting coins. QUID is still to the fore despite its antiquity, for it has been recorded as early as 1688. One term for the 1 Pound which I have not found, though I had expected it, is BEAN. The phrase "I have not a BEAN" dates from 1903 and means that you have not a single piece of money in your possession, but a HALF BEAN means a 10/- note. If so, why not a BEAN for a 1 Pound note? Again a HALF NOTE refers to 10/- but 1 Pound is not a NOTE. I wonder why.

Leaving the larger sums of money and coming to the 5/- we find quite a variety of names. DOLLAR will be familiar and long antedates the U.S.A. The word THALER, from Jachimsthal, dates from 1519 and the transformation from THALER to DOLLAR had been completed by 1553. By 1581 DOLLAR had been transferred to the Spanish Piece of Eight. CROWN can claim a much longer pedigree than DOLLAR as it comes from Middle English, and has been so readily accepted that today it takes an effort to realise that it started off life as a nickname. COACH-WHEEL and CARTWHEEL are quite modern, though they never attained universal acceptance. The latter dates from 1867 and the former must be from the same period. It is rather surprising to find CARTWHEEL used for 5/-, as the heavy coinage of twopenny and penny pieces of Boulton about 1797 were given that name for their clumsiness. The old practice of throwing pennies at an actor who had either annoyed or dissatisfied the audience takes on a fresher meaning when we think that weights of one and two ounces were involved.

The 2/6 and the 2/- pieces do not seem to have earned any lasting nicknames of their own. For the former we get the HALF CROWN and HALF A

BUCK and for the latter the FLORIN from the town of Florence. No familiarity at all.

The shilling or 1/- on the other hand was more in use and received many more nicknames. First of all we have BLOW. Maybe that one has some connection with the sense of blowing someone, i.e. informing on them. A GENERALISE has me foxed. I suspect rhyming slang but I just don't get it at all. A BOB, which is still commonly used to describe the 5p piece, which replaced the shilling on decimalisation, dates from 1812 and immediately begs the question as to which Robert has had his name immortalised. I am afraid I just cannot answer that one. A NORTHEASTER is another puzzle. It is said to come from the N.E. on some New England coins of the seventeenth century. That would seem fair enough but how do you explain the fact that Northeaster describing a wind from the Northeast only dates from 1774? A MANCHESTER SOVEREIGN seems to be readily explainable. We may suppose that some delinquent citizen of Lancashire made a practice of gilding shillings and passing them on to unsuspecting traders as golden sovereigns. The difference in the weights of the coins would have made this a shortlived occupation. Another term for the shilling was PEG. This word can be traced back as far as 1617 for a tankard into the sides of which pegs were driven to show just how far each person was allowed to drink from the communal cup. You would think it a short step for the word to be used then for a drink but in fact it was not so used until 1864, and then only through Anglo-Indian army slang. I very much doubt the word of 1864 has no connection with word of 1617. Maybe some word from an Indian language provided the nineteenth century with a new word for a drink and subsequently for the shilling which paid for the drink. From PEG to BREAKLEG is an easy step via rhyming slang and BREAKLEG started off life as slang for strong drink, pretty obvious why, and ended up as another slang word for the shilling. You would have trouble nowadays finding enough strong drink for a shilling to do yourself any injury.

The oldest term for the sixpence I have unearthed is the TESTER. This has a long and easily followed history starting off in 1484 as a term for armour protecting the head. On it went to be applied to the shilling of Henry VIII and when this was debased and depreciated to the sixpence. A rather odd name for the sixpence was CRIPPLE used in 1785. I can see no possible explanation for that one. Nor for that matter for a TIZZY in use in 1804. TANNER, on the other hand has a familiar ring as I have used it myself, especially in younger days when it was a lot of money. It dates from 1811 and the S.O.E.D. dismisses it casually with "Origin obscure". It did however lend itself to the old joke about the first Savings Bank having been set up when Paul lodged with one Simon a tanner. LORD OF THE MANOR is quite obviously derived from TANNER through the devious logic of rhyming slang. BENDER, dating from 1836, is another puzzle. The only time I have heard it used in slang was for a drunken spree.

The groat, or fourpenny piece, never really caught on in circulation and it is not surprising that its earliest nickname, or at least the earliest I have come across, dates from 1865 when it was coming to the end of its life. This is a JOEY, supposed to come from Joseph Hume. I should think he was a Chancellor of the Exchequer about that time.

The silver threepenny piece and its successor, the twelve sided brass coin, never seem to have been accepted into the folklife of the nation

That brings us to the end of this survey of nicknames of British coins. The new decimal coins are too new, and may I whisper it, losing their value too rapidly, to endear themselves to the extent of earning a nickname. Probably they will in time and in a couple of centuries some numismatist will puzzle his brains to find an explanation. As I said at the start, maybe other collectors will expand this list and bring in the nicknames of other countries and then we would have something of value. Whoever does the compiling can contact me for a couple of Tibetan nicknames I came across for nicknames it would seem are universal.

by N. G. Rhodes

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- Small coins of the Mughal Emperors are all rare, and although a few other examples of 1/8th rupees are known for other mints, no other example of this denomination of this ruler is known for the mint of Ahmedabad.

YAP ISLAND STONE MONEY

(From information submitted by Neil Kent Becker, Chairman - International Primitive, "Odd and Curious" Money Club, 6 Soundview Lane, Great Neck, New York 11024)

Long ago, Yapese men were skilled Navigators whose canoes sailed to the island of Palau in search of Stone Money. On many occasions on the trip back to Yap they would encounter sea storms, thus causing many casualties and a great loss of the Stone Money they would be transporting back.

The Stone Money is still being used by the Yapese people for these purposes:

1. Marriage ceremonies (Yapese custom).
2. Trouble, such as juvenile delinquency, theft, damage of property, etc., that arises in the villages sometimes and is presented before the elders of that particular village and an exchange of Stone Money is made for reconciliation.
3. To purchase canoes, lands, foods, etc.
4. For Yapese ceremonies such as mit-mit.

David O'Keefe, an Irish-American adventurer, was shipwrecked at Yap in 1871 and stayed to make a fortune trading stone money for copra. As Captain of a Chinese junk, he began a profitable trading career that lasted 30 years. In exchange for copra, O'Keefe supplied modern cutting tools and sailed with Yapese to Palau to help them quarry the Stone Money. His ship allowed the Yapese to bring back larger pieces of money in relative safety, which they had never experienced in their fragile canoes.

There are two types of Stone Money:

- FE' NI DUMOW: All Stone Money slabs called by this name came to Yap either by O'Keefe's ship or a German steamship. These are the ones with the smooth surface (quarried with modern cutting tools).
- FE' NI NGOCHOL: These were brought to Yap by Yapese men on canoes and huge rafts made out of breadfruit logs. This was before O'Keefe's time. These are the ones with rough surfaces (quarried with crude tools and methods).

Since 1965 strict laws have prohibited the removal of Stone Money from Yap Island. On occasion, the High Chief of Yap Island does allow pieces to be taken from the island, normally only in the form of special gifts, such as the specimen pictured which was given

to the author, along with another piece weighing 20 pounds, by the High Chief in April, 1974. Former President Richard M. Nixon also received a specimen in 1971 as a gift from the people of Yap Island.



The author with a 70 pound specimen of FE' NI NGOCHOL, 19" x 15" Diameter, 5" Thick, 3-1/2" to 1-1/2" Diameter of Hole.

Yap Island's Stone Money faces an unquestionable future. It is hard to believe that only 500 years ago the population of Yap was 50,000 as opposed to today's population of 8,000. Once an island empire in the Pacific rich with a distinct culture and language, it is now a foundering Pacific culture. Such a story is now considered inevitable for all small cultures due to the communication and transportation revolution.

The fact that Stone Money is no longer made is the basic factor contributing to its sure extinction. The material from which it is made, calcite, is formed and found in stalactites and stalagmites on Palau Island. It appears in both organic and inorganic substances; the former found inside of shells, the latter in this special stone. The beautiful material is easily subject to erosion. Examination of the stones reveal what water alone does to the stone. In addition to the water from the rain, the typhoons on Yap are among the worst found anywhere in the world. The final factor to be considered, as well as the saddest, is the lack of efforts among the natives to preserve the Stone Money. I believe few will survive the turn of the next century, especially the old pieces (FE' NI NGOCHOL), and those that do will be well cared for and preserved.

One of the problems with the Stone Money today is understanding its value. The Stone Money is most important today to Yapese people over sixty years of age. But even they cannot remember the quarrying of the Stone Money, which ceased during the turn of the century. It is worth mentioning that the people of Rul, a municipality in Yap, got

GERMANY'S BUTTERMILK WAR

by Dr. M. Robert Talissman

"The Danes are coming" was the cry heard in Lüttenborg, Germany, and a Gilbert and Sullivan type action, complete with spies, a tomcat and a ship loaded with swine start to weave a tale of intrigue and numismatic adventure.

To give a historical setting, the death of Christian VIII of Denmark on 20 January 1848 left succession to the Danish throne in doubt for a period of time. The duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, under Danish rule, sought a degree of autonomy. Frederick VII became king of Denmark. While he promised local autonomy to the duchies, Prussian pressure helped separate them from Denmark.

In 1921 the four notgeld notes below were issued by the Savings and Loan Bank of Lüttenborg, a city approximately two miles from the Baltic Sea, east of Kiel, Germany. The notes, redeemable until 1 November 1921, were all of 50 Pfennig denomination. Coloring was done in green, blue, black and white. While not a currency issue, but of a propaganda nature to advertise the city, and raise a few marks by selling them to collectors, the four notes told the following story of a Danish invasion in 1848 to enforce rule upon the city.

The notes, in sequence, relate "The Danes are Coming", "The First Shot", "The Advance of the Lüttenborgers" and "The So-Called Danes".



Fig. 1
(The Danes are Coming)

The story, translated from the Frisian dialect, goes like this. The war between the Danes and the Schleswig-Holsteiners had broken out. The Danes wanted to set up on land nearby and so started an uprising on the Baltic coast.

On the evening of 21 April 1848, a man from Todendort, about five miles north of Lüttenborg on the coast, came by foot to Lüttenborg and warned that some Danes were coming by boat. They were reported to have wanted to speak with a woman, but she could not understand them. They most certainly were spies and were coming to a spot where there were no soldiers.

By morning the Danes had come. The whole town of Lüttenborg was in an uproar and in the melee, a tomcat was shot. No Lüttenborger dared close an eye that night.



Fig. 2
(The First Shot)



Fig. 3
(Advance of the Lüttenborgers)

Relay riders were sent to Plon and Preetz, two nearby towns to summon immediate help. (These towns also issued notgeld notes of this type.)

Continuing the story, when the Lüttenborg city militia searched for the Danes, none were to be found. Were they all in hiding? Finally the whole affair was called off and the incident considered a false alarm.

The Danes who had landed at Todendort, it was later learned, spoke the Frisian dialect and were from a ship loaded with buttermilk and

swine. They were taking the buttermilk to feed the other swine on the island of Fehmarn in the Baltic Sea.



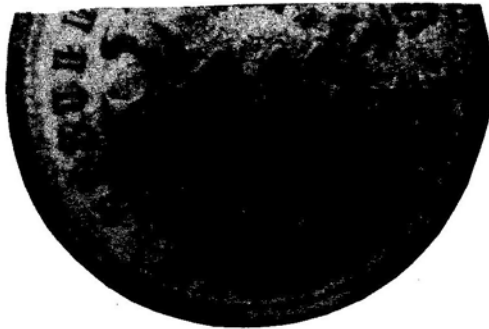
Fig. 4
(The So-Called Danes)

The whole affair had a happy ending, as a convention and decree was signed by the duchies and Denmark in August 1848.

(Editor's Note: All illustrations are approximately 3/4 actual size.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I have enclosed a Costa Rica coin that I purchased this spring. As you can see it is surely strange. I do not know what happened to the "8" in the date. And if you will notice the obverse appears to be silver washed or something, while the reverse is clearly brass. With a glass you can see that the "CA" in RICA is over "IC". I showed this to two people who should know and one stated it was a cast fake, while the other said he did not know, but did not feel it was a fake. I wrote Les Snell about it, and he said to send it to you as perhaps it might be of some value to the NI bulletin.



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(Ed.: Above is an enlarged photo of the area in question on this Costa Rica 10 Centavos dated 1918(?), Y48(?). Can any NI member help member Easton on this?)

THE ITALIAN KINGS OF JERUSALEM

by Dave Schecter

(Reprinted from Israel Numismatic Society of Illinois BULLETIN, September, 1974, with permission of INSI and the author.)

In its long history Jerusalem has had many kings. During the First Crusade, practically every boatload of Crusaders that had an independent Duke or Count on it saw the spectacle of the noble jamming his standard into the ground and taking possession of the country in his own name as King of Jerusalem, and then announcing that he was doing this in the "name of God". Things got into a pretty pass since since many of these nobles were quite autonomous; but finally in 1099 they got together and elected Godfrey of Bouillon "Protector of the Holy Sepulchre". This made Godfrey the first of the generally recognized Kings of Jerusalem. The line of succession continued with his heirs until 1187 when Salah-ed Din captured the city with his Saracen troops.

But this did not stop Guy of Lusignan from continuing to call himself King of Jerusalem even though his rule continued in absentia from the shores of Europe. In fact, for several years of the Third Crusade there were two Christian knights, each claiming to be the King of Jerusalem; but in 1192 when Jerusalem was taken from the Saracens, a new name came into the act -- that of Henry of Champagne, who was elected King of Jerusalem by his fellow Crusaders. For the next 50 years the succession jumped around, and in 1244 when the Crusaders left the Holy Land for the last time, Frederick II, the German Emperor, was "it". Coincidentally with his being King of Jerusalem and Emperor of the Germans, Frederick was also King of Sicily, in all, quite a busy boy.

In 1282 the Spanish House of Aragon took over Sicily, taking with it all the titles and perquisites to which the King of Sicily was entitled, including that of "King of Jerusalem". Thus from 1282 to 1713 the Kings of Spain were also Kings of Jerusalem.

At the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 Spain ceded Sicily to Victor Amadeus, Duke of Savoy, and with the cession went the privilege to declare himself King of Sicily and the right to all the provinces of that Kingship, among which of course was the Kingdom of Jerusalem. King Victor Amadeus didn't waste any time and had coins issued declaring himself VICTOR AMADEUS, D.G. (by the grace of God) SIC (Sicily) IER (Jerusalem) and CYRP (Cyprus) REX (King). This was on the obverse, together with his portrait; on the reverse, since he did not want anyone to forget that this was not all he was, he listed DUX SAB ET MONTISF PRIN PEDE (Duke of Savoy and Montferrat, Prince of Piedmont) since these were his other titles.

From then on, the coinage of all the Dukes of the Italian House of Savoy listed them as Kings of Jerusalem until the unification of Italy in 1861 when Victor Emanuel II relinquished all his other rights in favor of the one, "KING OF ITALY".